

Public Information Department, 11150 East Blvd., Cleveland, Ohio 44106; 216/421-7340

PRESS RELEASE

June 1991

## THE ORDER OF THINGS: A HISTORY OF THE COLUMN

This exhibition traces the origins of the column, from its speculative beginnings through the formal codification of the three familiar types of columns used in ancient Greek architecture: the Doric, Ionic, and Corinthian.

The column has played an important role in the history of architecture almost from the time man first moved out of caves and into the dwellings he created for himself and for the worship of his gods. In the United States the column is an integral part of the civic architecture of many cities and towns: one finds columns decorating the exteriors and interiors of banks, courthouses, churches, museums, and even houses. Therefore, even though we are exposed to many architectural structures that feature columns, in the hurried pace of modern life we have a tendency to take the presence of columns for granted—almost to ignore their existence.

The exhibition is designed to familiarize the viewer with the ancient origins and long history of the column—the simplest, the most familiar, and perhaps the most elegant of all architectural elements. Among the more than thirty-five objects are eight freestanding, large-scale models of columns and capitals, along with twenty photographs of important architectural structures and monuments that chronologically trace the development of the column. Also included are diagrams of columns, capitals, and reconstructions of buildings to further clarify the educational aspects of the exhibition.

**SUPPORT MATERIAL TO ACCOMPANY EXHIBITION:** A small publication will be available for distribution; it includes a brief introduction to the history of the column, its origins, its major uses, and familiar monuments and landmarks. The brochure will identify the three major types of columns and emphasize the major points of the exhibition. (A limited number of these brochures will be provided to each institution for mailing to nearby interested facilities.)

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TEACHER PACKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE: They will include an introduction to the exhibition, a copy of the brochure, a vocabulary list, and slides.

The exhibition, organized by the Extensions Division of the Department of Education, The Cleveland Museum of Art, is made possible through the generous support of TRW. The Women's Council of The Cleveland Museum of Art, and the Herman R. Marshall Memorial Fund enabled publication of the brochure.

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